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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Militia Unit in Kurdzhali
2. Haskovo-Kharmanli Highway
3. Turkish Minority

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three reports containing information on the following:

- a. Militia Unit in Kurdzhali (Kircaali).
- b. Widening and repair of the Haskovo-Kharmanli highway.
- c. Strike of Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

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Subject : Kircaali Militia

1. Kircaali is a city subjected to a sub-division. There is a Militia Sub-division Administration there (Okrijno Upravlenie Na Militsiyata).

City Militia is probably subjected to the Sub-division Administration. City and Sub-division Militia are both located in the same building. This building is at Kircaali, Georgi Dimitrof St. There is one block building between the Kircaali post office and this Militia Hdq. This block building was being constructed in October 1963 and it was said that mentioned building will have 7 flats and be the highest building in Kircaali.

The building where the Militia was located, had three flats. Previously, Kircaali Post Office was located there too. Probably in 1959 - 1960, the Post Office moved to a new building at that same street and ~~that~~ other building was completely given at the disposal of the Militia. The inhabitants of Kircaali called this building or in general, the Militia "M.V.R." (Me-Ve-RB - the first letters of the words meaning the Ministry of Interior).

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2. There are people in charge of the districts subordinated to the City Militia in Kircaali. Those are the civilians at a district trusted by the Militia. They cooperate with the Militia and show some activities for the things going on, security and also, to settle the confusions between the individuals in the district. Their authority is limited. They can control certificates, only can not arrest anybody by themselves. They are in charge of settling some small problems. For instance, they find a way of settling the confusions between two neighbors. They arrange a meeting where the people of the district join to settle those confusions. Those joining this meeting tell their opinions which help in settling the confusions. These meetings are usually arranged through the O.F. (Country Front). This meeting is called Drugarski Sid (~~Court~~ of Friends).

The application of those decisions is the responsibility of the person in charge of the district. For instance, one of the neighbors has broken the window of the other and if the "Court of Friends" has decided that it will be indemnified, the person in charge sees to it that it will be done.

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Thus, Militia did not have to take care of such small things and also, had the sources to give them information concerning the goings-on. The responsible people of the districts have some men in their areas to relate the happenings to them objectively. Therefore, they have knowledge about everybody in their districts. If Militia needs to get some information about someone, they apply to those people in charge.

3. An office of Militia is located near the mosque at the market place and subordinated to the Kircali city Militia. There, one room is put in the form of an office. The commander there is a captain named KARABASEF. This office is called Kvartalen Otgovornik. There is no force of Militia there. Also, there is no Militia member except that captain KARABASEF.

This office is located at an area facing the Kircali market. They thought it was necessary to establish such an office because stealing and other bad things could take place there more.

4. There are Militia patrols and stationary guards on the streets day and night for the security in Kirc aali. The places where there are stationary guards day and night:

1) In front of the building where the Communist Party sub-division committee is located. This guard is usually in side the entrance door. The mentioned building is at Georgi Dimitrof St.

2) A Militia member stands constantly in front of the building where the Communist Party City committee is located. He stands inside the entrance door generally.

3) There is also a guard in front of the entrance gate of the Public Bank constantly.

4) A Militia member standing constantly in front of the Saving Safe (Spetovna Kasa).

5) A guard in front of the Kircali railroad station.

6) there is also a guard at the highway cutting the Arda and going from Kircali to Vesolcani and at the railroad bridge.

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Except these stationary guards, there are Militia patrols on the streets. Usually, they are at the main avenues and at the market places. They are mostly at Republikańska, the main avenue, and the Georgi Dimitroff. They are very seldom two of them. Generally, they are one.

There are two Militia members going on the streets on horse back at night. They together go to every street in Kircali.

5. There are no limits in Kircali. Militia's duty is to perform the security. Only in case of suspicion and an incident, the certificates are controlled. They are taken to the Militia Hdq. for further study if they think it is necessary.

There are cells at the basement of the Militia building for the ~~imprisonment~~ 50X1-HUM

The commander of the Kircali Militia is someone called MIRCEA. his rank is Lieutenant Colonel.

Those who wanted to make a trip to Turkey must visit him in his office.

There is a Lieutenant Colonel ZLATI in Kircali.

Captain KIRKADZEV - works at the office near the mosque in Kircali.

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There are three Militia members living at Zavoya Ha Cerna district in Kircali; two of them are Bulgarians and one of the Turkish origin.

The one of the Turkish origin is Sulaiman ATNURHANOV

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] another Militia member named HILSTO who frequently goes to the chess club. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. There are guards protecting the factories in Kircaali.

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Subject

: Widening and repair of Raskovo - Razvanli highway

1. In 1963, they were working on widening and repairing the Raskovo - Razvanli highway. The width of this highway, the surface of which was asphalt, was 6 m. and it was made 7 m. by digging half a meter more on each side. On the side of this highway, the surface of which is 7 m. wide, they laid some stones like on the sides of the side-ways. The parts of half a meter which will be added to both sides of the highway are dug half a meter deep. Broken stones are placed there and by going over them by a roller, it will be made plane on the same level with the highway. The center of the highway rise with a light inclination as compared to the sides. The stones at the sides are at a higher level.

With this activity of widening the highway, the places where it got rough on the surface were being repaired. Only, on those parts, they laid asphalt.

2. Pismo Upravlenie (Highway Administration) of which the Center is located in Sofia, in charge of the above mentioned work. Hence, there are engineers working from Sofia there.

The center of the organization connected with this highway construction is located in Raskovo, Stoykovo village. The big boss there is someone called VALEKOV. There are two working places subordinated to the center in Stoykovo. One of those is the repairing area of that same highway in the vicinity of Stoykovo village and the other is the highway at a 3 km. distance from Polyanovo village. The working place in the vicinity of Polyanovo village is called Ghekt Kaktital. 50X1-HUM

The technician in charge at Kaktital was ANAIEF and the chief of the group is VIL. 70 labourers are working there and they are of Turkish origin. The daily salary is 3-4 leva. There are huts made of brick for the workers.

Workers are given breakfast (tea, cheese) and lunch (food with meat or without meat) and once in 3-4 days, they give pudding in lunch. Supper - one food only and fruit very seldom. For each worker, 1000 gr. of bread each day. The expense is out from their salaries.

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The working suits and the rubber boots were provided by the construction firm. In general, the workers who are people willing to work at such a low salary are pleased with their life.

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Subject**: Strife of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria
and the measurements taken**

According to the rumors in Kireali in May 1963, those who applied to the Turkish Consulate in Plovdiv in the shortest time, could emigrate to Turkey. At first, very few people knew about it and nobody had any idea about the source of this information. There were lots of people who did not believe this news. However, those who did not miss that chances began to go to Plovdiv and apply to come to Turkey. Then, the news spread and in July and August, almost every Turk was sure that this news was true. Everybody was trying to find a way to go to Plovdiv and apply officially to come to Turkey.

The Bulgarian authorities did not like this and took measurements to stop the people of Turkish origin from going to Plovdiv. These are as follows:

1) At the railroad stations, no tickets were sold unless the Moon passports were shown. Those who were found out to be Turks, were not given any tickets. The militia members serving at the railroad stations, controlled the people of Turkish origin (even they searched their shoes) and they kept the certificates that they found on them. Those who had papers on them for the official application to the Consulate were beaten and imprisoned.

2) It was the same with those who wanted to travel by bus.

3) To prevent the people from travelling by foot, some points at Strazitsa village (Haskovo - Plovdiv highway) were held by the militia members. Two people from the militia and a civilian were stopping all the people passing by on this highway. They did not stop the Bulgarians, but they were searching the Turks, beating them and arresting.

4) The Communist Party members in all villages where Turks were living, were notified to be wide awake. They were to report the Turkish travellers passing through their villages. Also, they were finding out those who wanted to go to Plovdiv or to apply to the Consulate through someone else and report them.

5) It was very difficult to enter the Turkish Consulate in Plovdiv. According to the rumors again, the vagabonds hired by the militia were attacking the people who wanted to enter the Consulate and were beating them very badly.

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Even if they could enter taking advantage of the confusion, they were beaten when they came out. Militia always found them (Turks) guilty and they were arrested for spoiling the security.

Then, Turks began to form groups. Among the members of the families in each group, someone was chosen to represent them at the Floride Consulate. This person was sacrificing under the suitable conditions that they had. After Militia found this out, they began to search everybody to get the lists of names of the group that he belonged. The people who were caught this way, were beaten till they found out everything and they were put in jail. There were lots of Turks beaten and put in jail at that time. I don't know their names.

In spite of these strict measurements taken, Turkish minority had to stop. With this, the extraordinary measurements taken were also cancelled. The limits and controls for the travels of the Turks till September 1963 were also partly cancelled.

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